

# LASE

# connections

Spring 2018

## LASE Donor Spotlight

...AND ALL GOD'S CREATURES, GREAT AND SMALL!

God has blessed LASE with some incredible people who have embraced our mission for God's children with their loyal support. As you get to know donors on a personal level, they often become people you are proud to call "friends"—people like **Bob and Esther Negwer**. For nearly 20 years they have encouraged family and friends to join them in



Bob, Esther and Ivan at the farm

supporting LASE so all children get the individualized services they need to be successful. The Negwer family is tight knit, faith filled, fun loving and always ready to give back to their church and community. Negwer Materials, Inc. in Ferguson, has been a long-time influence in the community, and generations of the Negwer family have attended Lutheran schools including Salem-Black Jack, Zion-Ferguson, Atonement and Lutheran

High School North. Since retirement, Bob and Esther have lived in Illinois enjoying their time with their ever-expanding family that now includes 9 great-grandchildren. They began the New Year with a celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary with family and friends. At 87, Bob hasn't slowed down, as he maintains the farm and cares for their menagerie of animals, including his newest member, Ivan, one of four miniature donkeys, who was a featured on the cover of *Assets* magazine. The Negwers are treasured friends who appreciate the value of Lutheran education and the potential of every child of God. Bob and Esther, we are grateful for your friendship and your support!

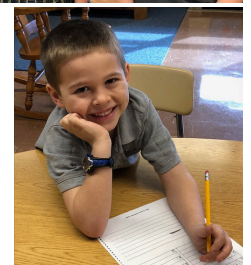
## Early Intervention Program (EIP) at Immanuel Lutheran School—St. Charles

**"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO." —DR. SEUSS**

A great example of the amazing partnership between LASE faculty and general education teachers is evidenced by the Early Intervention Program under the direction LASE's Kelley Malady at Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Charles. In addition to her Resource Room services, she and Principal Diana Meers felt a need for a proactive program for students in grades K – 3 that focused on **early reading and language arts skills**. Kelley began screening students at the beginning of the school year to identify those who could benefit from the Early Intervention Program. She currently works with 27

children weekly in small groups, utilizing a specialized reading program called **S.P.I.R.E**, which focuses on phonological awareness, phonics, fluency and comprehension. The goal of the early intervention program is

to provide that extra support when children are young to help alleviate the need for additional special education services as students enter a higher grade level. In addition, the program allows Kelley the opportunity to identify the need for further evaluation and support, if necessary. As a result of this program, Kelley sees students not only advance in their reading and language arts skills, but also in their confidence as they see greater success in all areas of their school life.





A child with special education needs affects the entire family. Thank you for providing us with solution based strategies that make homework manageable and family time more enjoyable.



## LASE 2018 Jeremiah Award Winner

**FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." —JEREMIAH 29:11**

It was unanimous! The 2018 LASE Jeremiah Award goes to Mike Flandermeyer, social studies teacher at Lutheran High School - St. Charles. This award is an opportunity for LASE to honor a general education teacher in a partner school who excels at meeting the unique and individual educational needs of all students in the classroom, especially those students who learn differently. **Mike Flandermeyer** is known for his flexibility and ability to collaborate with LASE Learning Center staff to ensure that every student has the opportunity to experience academic success. Principal Jon Bernhardt says, "Mr. Flandermeyer shows Christian care and genuine interest in helping students. **He has a heart for helping all students** and is always the first to go to the LASE teachers to inquire about how he can best meet the needs of these students. Mr. Flandermeyer is enthusiastic in his instruction and is always willing to try new ideas and new teaching methods, even sacrificing his prep periods to work individually with students who require some extra help. He is known for going the 'extra mile' and is eager to implement recommended strategies and modifications as needed for each student's success." Keep up the great work, Mike!!



2018 LASE Jeremiah Award recipient, Mike Flandermeyer and LASE students celebrate together.

## Your Word is a Lamp to my Feet and a Light to my Path. —Psalm 119:105

### OUR SUCCESS STORIES

LASE faculty likes to stay in touch with former students, to gain feedback on their current challenges and successes, and to encourage their evolving goals. Information is shared amongst faculty members to promote "best practices" discussions for current and future LASE students. Here are just a few stories we would like to share:



Terry



Abbey



Lakota

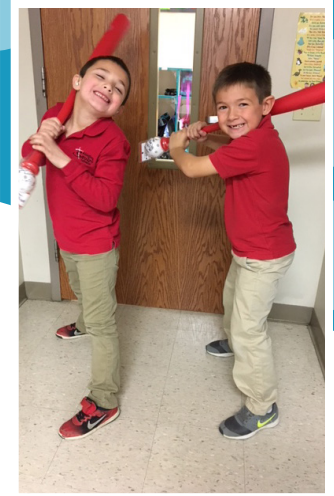
**Terry Tatum** – We are proud to give you the update that Terry has adjusted well to freshman life at the University of Central Missouri. His strong faith, study skills, family and ability to advocate for himself have served him well during his first semester. We look forward to following his experiences as he pursues his dreams.

**Abbey Schulte** – Abbey is pursuing her dream of becoming an Early Childhood teacher as a student at Webster University. As a LASE student at Lutheran High School - St. Charles, she was one of the first students to participate in the Early Childhood Program at partnering school, Lewis and Clark. Keep up the great work, Abbey!

**Lakota Schweitzer** – We have followed Lakota's journey since her beginning years at **Child of God Lutheran School** with LASE teacher, Brandi Hallemeier. She is now a junior in the **LASE Learning Center at Lutheran High School - St. Charles**. Lakota participates in the Applied Retail Business program at Lewis and Clark Community College, as part of her educational plan. In addition to her daily studies, she works in the mini-mart, gaining retail experience. Lakota volunteers often, most recently with her mother as a greeter for LASE's Herald the Holidays. Her current LASE teacher, Sue Klobnak, has high hopes for Lakota's future.

GRANT SUPPORT  
THANK YOU *to the following*  
LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association
- ▶ Concordia Outbound Ministries



## Teamwork with our Lutheran Schools

**WE MUST LEARN TO SEE PAST LABELS AND DISABILITIES INTO THE HEART OF EACH STUDENT AND SEE HIM AS A CHILD OF GOD.**

An important consideration in selecting a school for your child is finding a match for their individualized learning and behavioral needs. The wrong choice can have a profound impact on a student, especially those with special education needs. Several of LASE's partner schools have commented on the positive relationship between their admissions staff and LASE faculty when interviewing potential families. Lisa Gnade, Director of Enrollment at Lutheran High School St. Charles, commented, "We have a seamless process with LASE staff partnering to determine the best fit for programming and curriculum for students in the Learning Center or Academic Lab. We share the mission of educating the whole child within a nurturing Christian community."

Katy Schmitt, Director of Admissions at Green Park Lutheran School, brought up the situation of transfer students with special education needs, who have had a negative experience at another school. She said, "Sandi Loduca (LASE Resource Teacher) is brought into the admissions process up front for evaluation and advocacy for students who learn differently. Because of LASE services, we can offer these families the resources they need within a simplified process. Teachers are being asked to take on a lot more diverse needs in the classroom today. We are a community. All Lutheran schools need to succeed for each of us to be successful."

LASE is proud to offer exceptional, customized programming for our students and families in Lutheran Schools. Two new schools are offering LASE services this year: St. John's-Arnold and Messiah Lutheran School in Weldon Spring. Our goal is to continue to expand to meet the growing needs of the children in our Lutheran community.



## LASE Insight Series

**LORI BENSON ADAMS—BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!**

**Lori Benson Adams, M.Ed.**, has extensive experience with children with learning, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Having taught in public, private and home school settings, worked in the early intervention field, and been in private practice for the past 35 years, Lori brings a unique mix of personal and professional insight to the table. She will be returning to St. Louis to lead the **2018 LASE Insight Series Workshop** for parents (Thursday evening, **August 2nd**) and for educators (Friday, **August 3rd**) at **Immanuel Lutheran School in Olivette**. Lori has a special bond with LASE. She speaks freely of her disappointment that faith based special education was not readily available for her



son's needs, so she has a deep appreciation for the impact of the ministry of LASE. These workshops are valuable and are offered at no cost to you. Watch for registration details coming soon on the LASE website!

## Peace on Earth Mix & Match

### LASE HERALD THE HOLIDAYS

*Peace* was a fitting theme for this year's Herald the Holidays on November 11th, at Orlando's Event and Conference Center in Maryland Heights. The day was a magical combination of a hand crafted holiday boutique, beautifully displayed auction items, a delicious Christmas luncheon and entertaining style show featuring fashions from **Soft Surroundings** and **Mix & Match**.

The nearly 300 guests listened intently to LASE Student Ambassador, Elizabeth Culligan and her mother, Christine, as they shared their touching story of challenges and hard earned successes in her life's journey. Elizabeth is thriving at LASE's Learning Center at Lutheran High School - St. Charles. The morning ended in fellowship with all of the guests singing, *Let There be Peace on Earth*, led by Executive Director, Jackie Smith. Thanks to the generosity of our guests, \$50,000 was raised to impact the lives of the children of LASE.



Student Ambassador,  
Elizabeth Culligan, family  
and Jackie Smith

## What Makes LASE Unique?

- We **support** an inclusive environment in which students of all capabilities thrive.
- We **build** personalized teacher-to-teacher and teacher-to family relationships to build trust and comradery.
- We **embed** ourselves within the culture of the school, its congregation and its community.
- We **customize** our program based on the unique needs of children, the families and the schools we serve.
- We **incorporate** best practice strategies, technology, and evidence-based curricular activities within the program.
- We **create** supportive networks, resources and partnerships that offer solutions and hope to the families we serve.



3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118

 Join our community on Facebook

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18, 2018 (Monday)

### Thirty-Sixth Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO  
4 person scramble, lunch, silent and oral auctions,  
evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvre buffet  
Registration: \$225 per person.  
Sponsorship, volunteer & donation opportunities  
available.  
Mega Tickets, Mulligans, Skins and Hole Contests



August 2, 2018 (Thursday)

### LASE Insight Series Parent Workshop

August 3, 2018 (Friday)

### LASE Insight Series Teacher Workshop

November 10, 2018 (Saturday)

### Herald the Holidays

Orlando's Event Center in Maryland Heights  
Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show  
Silent Auction: 9:30am-11:30am  
Tickets: \$55 per person—Reserved tables of ten

For more information visit Events Page at  
[lutheranspecialed.org](http://lutheranspecialed.org) or call 314-268-1234.



## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Lutheran Association for Special Education  
programs for students of any race, color, and  
national or ethnic origin.